

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR ELAB DA FI IC NO SW XZ

SUBJECT: NORDIC LABOR CONGRESS, JUNE 15 -17, 1973

1. SUMMARY. CONGRESS OF NORDIC SOCDEM PARTY AND TRADE UNION LEADERS HELD IN STOCKHOLM JUNE 15-17. CONGRESS ITEMS WERE CURRENT ISSUES FACING LABOR MOVEMENT, ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY, INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY, WORK ENVIRONMENT, REGIONAL PLANNING AND LABOR MARKET POLICY. OTHER ISSUES SUCH AS MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES CREPT INTO CONGRESS DISCUSSION. CONGRESS SESSIONS CONSISTED LARGELY OF READING DESCRIPTIONS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES WITH VIRTUALLY NO OPEN DISCUSSION OR DEBATE. HOWEVER, ISSUE OF ECONOMIC OR INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY WAS SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE OFF- FLOOR DEBATE. CONGRESS PROVIDED OCCASIONS FOR SOCDEM AND TRADE UNION LEADERS TO COMPARE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS, AND COORDINATE REGIONAL APPROACHES. AMONG MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS WAS TO BUILD SOCDEM RECORD OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR VOTERS IN SWEDEN AND NORWAY. END OF SUMMARY.

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2. NORDIC LABOR CONGRESS, JUNE 15-17, WAS LOW- KEY, UNDER-PUBLICIZED MEETING OF 200 NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND SOC-DEM TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES. DELEGATIONS HEADED BY PRIMIN ANKER JORGENSEN AND LO KAI PETERSEN, DENMARK; PRIMIN KALEVI SORSA AND SAK PRESIDENT NILO HAMALAINEN, FINLAND; PARTY LEATER TRYGGVE BRATTELI AND LO PRES. TO ASPENGREN, NORWAY; PRIMIN OLAF PALME AND LO CHIEFS ARNE GEIJER AND GUNNAR NILSSON, SWEDEN; AND SOCDEM REP BENEDIKT GRONDAL, ICELAND. JOHN SVENNINGSSEN, GENSEC OF NORDI TRADE UNION COUNCIL, ACTIVE IN PREPARING DISCUSSION DOCUMENTS.

3. PALME OPENED CONGRESS WITH LITANY OF SOCDEM IDEOLOGICAL BASES AND PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS. HE MAINTAINED ONLY SOCDEMS CAPABLE OF MASTERING TECHNICAL EVOLUTION WITH ITS EFFECTS ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, WORKING CONDITIONS, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, ETC. KEYWORD IS SOLIDARITY. VARIOUS SOC-DEM LABOR MOVEMENTS AND GOVERNMENTS MUST WORK TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE NATIONAL BARRIERS TO INTER- NORDIC COOPERATION WITH TRADE UNIONS IN FOREFRONT. LABOR MOVEMENT MUST ALSO INFLUENCE UN DEVELOPMENT AND EXERCISE CONTROL OVER ACTIVITIES OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS. EXAMPLE OF ITT AS PROBLEM FOR US CITED IN ONLY DIRECT REFERENCE TO US. PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SOCDEM PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS PRESCRIBED AS MEANS FOR ASSURING WORKER INFLUCENCE THROUGH BOTH NEGOTIATING AND LEGISLATIVE CHANNELS. NON- SOCIALIST OPPOSITION DESCRIBED AS DEEPLY SPLIT AND INEFFECTURAL.

4. OTHER MAJOR SPEECHES WERE BY ANKER JORGENSEN-- DANISH ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY; TOR ASPENGREN-- NORWEGIAN INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY; SWEDISH MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS SVEN ASPLING-- JOB ENVIRONMNET; KALEVI SORSA-- REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND LABOR MARKET POLICY; AND GENERAL RESUME BY TRYGGVE BRATTELI. THESE ADDRESSES AND OTHER SPEECHES WERE MOSTLY DESCRIPTIVE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE SUBJECT AREAS IN THE INDIVIAUDAL COUNTRIES WITH VITUALLY NO DISCUSSION TAKING PLACE IN OPEN CONGRESS. SORSA PROVIDED ONE OF FEW SPARKS IN EXPRESSING FINNISH DESIRE TO ATTRACT HOME FINNS NOW WORKING IN SWEDEN, AND IN CITING DESIRABILITY OF ACTIVE SOCDEM COOPERATION WTIH COMMUNISTS, EVEN TO INCLUDING THEM IN GOVERNMENT. LATTER OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT SWEDES WHO LET IT PASS WITHOUT OPEN COMMENT. SORSA ALSO MENTIONED COOPERATION WITH CENTER PARTY, BUT NOTED EVOLUTIONS APPEARED TO BE FOR CENTER PARTIES TO COOPERATE WITH LIBERALS AND CONSERVATIVES. SWEDEN' S LABOR MINISTER ERIC HOLM- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QVIST PICKED UP THIS POINT IN ADDRESS ON REGIONAL POLICY TO SHARPLY ATTACK SWEDISH CENTER PARTY AND POSSIBLE NON- SOCIALIST COALITION GOVERNMENT.

5. BRATTELI' S CLOSING ADDRESS CALLED FOR DEVELOPING POLICIES WHICH WOULD MAKE LABOR MOVEMENT LEADING POWER FORCE THROUGH

1980' S. OLD THEORETICAL SOLUTIONS RE NATIONALIZATION NO LONGER ADEQUATE. MUST PREPARE FOR MORE NUANCED DISCUSSIONS. CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT PATTERNS WILL REQUIRE CHANGE IN TACTICS, BUT NORDIC LABOR MOVEMENT ABLE TO ADAPT.

6. CONGRESS ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS (1) SUPPORTING ICELAND IN COD WAR ( REPORTED SEPARATELY) AND (2) GENERAL STATEMENT RECOUNTING SUCCESSES IN DEVELOPING WELFARE SYSTEM AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, AND PROJECTING FUTURE TASKS. NOTED LABOR MOVEMENT UNDER ATTACK FROM RIGHT AND LEFT. OPPONENTS WOULD ROLL- BACK ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT LABOR MUST PRESS ON IN FACE OF TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS TO IMPROVE GENERAL WELFARE. TRADE UNION POLITICAL COOPERATION ESSENTIAL. MUST GUARD AGAINST INCREASED INFLUENCE OF PROFIT MOTIVE AND POWER OF CAPITAL. NON- SOCIALIST OPPOSITION DEEPLY SPLIT AND UNABLE SOLVE DAILY PROBLEMS. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IMPORTANT AS WORKER FIRST TO BE AFFECTED BY ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION. RESOLUTION ASSERTED A) RENEWAL OF SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN WORKING LIFE IS CENTRAL JUSTIFIED DEMAND; B) THIS RENEWAL CRITICAL FOR ENTIRE COMMUNITY; C) INFLUENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF WAGE- EARNERS AND TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE BUILT UP. INCREASED ECONOMIC INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY NEEDED IN CREATION OF REGIONAL BALANCE, BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS, INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, EQUALITY, EMPLOYMENT SECURITY. LEGISLATIVE AND NEGOTIATING ROUTES TO BE FOLLOWED. EACH COUNTRY FREE TO FOLLOW OWN METHOD.

7. TEST OF RESOLUTIONS, CONGRESS WORKING OUTLINE AND LIST OF PARTICIPANTS POUCHED ALL ADDRESSEES, WHERE AVAILABLE, TEXTS OF ADDRESSES BY NATIONAL LEADERS POUCHED APPROPRIATE EMBASSIES AND DEPARTMENT ( EUR/ NE).

8. COMMENT. OBVIOUS THAT MOST WORK DONE AWAY FROM CONGRESS FLOOR. EXCHANGE OF PAPERS BY MAIL WOULD HAVE HAD SAME EFFECT AS READING PREPARED DESCRIPTIONS OF DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS. HOWEVER, SWEDISH PARTY SECRETARY STEN ANDERSSON AND RIKSDAG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FLOORLEADER INGVAR SVANBERG SEPARATELY TOLD LABATT IT IMPORTANT AFTER EIGHT YEAR LAPSE SINCE 1965 COPENHAGEN CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC POSITIONS. ALSO CONFIRMED THAT ONE AIM OF CONGRESS WAS TO BOLSTER NORWEGIAN AND SWEDISH SOCDEM PROSPECTS FOR SEPTEMBER PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. LIKELY THAT CAMPAIGNING POINT WILL BE MADE THAT SOCDEMS COOPERATE ON IMPORTANT ISSUES AT REGIONAL LEVEL. IN COMPARISON, OPPOSITION CANNOT AGREE ON DOMESTIC QUESTIONS, MUCH LESS SOLVE BROADER AREA- WIDE PROBLEMS. ANDERSSON, IN BURST OF OPTIMISM, ADDED THAT SWEDISH SOCDEMS AND LO NOW FULLY ORGANIZED FOR CAMPAIGN.

9. DESPITE INTENTION USE CONGRESS FOR ELECTORAL PURPOSES, CONGRESS APPEARED ILL- PREPARED WITH LITTLE EMPHASIS ON MAXIMUM

EXPOSURE. SWEDISH MEDIA COVERAGE MODERATE AT BEST. OF DELEGATIONS PRESENT ONLY FINNS APPEARED PREPARED WITH FULL RANGE OF POSITION PAPERS. HOWEVER, CONGRESS PROVIDED OCCASION FOR NATIONAL LEADERS TO CONFER AND DEBATE PRIVATELY ISSUES DESCRIBED BUT NOT DISCUSSED DURING OPEN SESSIONS. LABATT TOLD THAT DISAGREEMENT OVER SOME ISSUES, " ECONOMIC" AND " INDUSTRIAL" DEMOCRACY IN PARTICULAR, SOURCE OF MANY CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS ALTHOUGH THESE DISAGREEMENTS PAPERED OVER IN RESOLUTION WITH CLAUSE PROVIDING FOR NATIONAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS. ALSO, AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, RECORD WAS MADE FOR VOTERS BACK HOME WITH MOST IMMEDIATE IMPACT AIMED AT SWEDEN AND NORWAY. DECONTROL DECEMBER 31, 1973.  
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